

Members are aware when new bills potentially duplicate existing programs in areas which have already been identified by the GAO.

I urge all Members to support passage of the Fiscal State of the Nation act today and renew our commitment to putting our Nation on a sustainable fiscal trajectory.

VACCINE MANDATE UNDERMINES ESSENTIAL SERVICES

(Mr. BURCHETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, when the coronavirus shut down this country, first responders and healthcare professionals kept our communities going and safe. The essential services they provide can't be done from behind a computer screen, Madam Speaker.

Joe Biden's vaccine mandate undermines the preparedness of these services. The Americans we celebrated for the last 20 months are now forced to get the coronavirus vaccine or be fired from their jobs. It is disgusting that the Biden administration is threatening these public servants' livelihoods over these issues.

Our country cannot afford labor shortages in essential services. Look at law enforcement, for example. The defund the police movement continues to embolden criminals and lower morale among the law enforcement community.

On top of these problems, thousands of police officers are facing termination thanks to Biden's vaccine mandate.

This is a recipe for disaster amidst rising crime. I guarantee that if you are in danger of or a victim of crime, the last thing on your mind will be the vaccination status of the responding officer.

Congress needs to stand up for these essential workers under attack from Joe Biden's vaccine mandate. This week, I will introduce legislation allowing these workers to decide for themselves on taking the coronavirus vaccine, free from threats of termination if they decide against getting the shot, Madam Speaker. No American citizen should be fired for making a healthcare decision they believe is in their best interest.

□ 1215

HEALTH EQUITY PROVISIONS OF BUILD BACK BETTER

(Ms. KELLY of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to pass the Build Back Better Act.

The Build Back Better Act will bring transformational change to the Amer-

ican people, create a more equitable healthcare system, and save lives.

One of the greatest ongoing injustices in our country is just how many people do not have access to affordable healthcare. That population is overwhelmingly made up of people of color and rural Americans.

Policymakers and medical institutions have not prioritized the healthcare needs of communities of color and rural communities. The Build Back Better Act will help these communities by closing the healthcare coverage gap, create more affordable coverage options, expand benefits for seniors, invest in improving access to mental health and substance use disorders, attack the gun violence epidemic with public-health focused interventions, invest in addressing the Black maternal mortality crisis, and lowering the cost of prescription drugs.

Investing in affordable care, preventive care, and targeted reductions in violence will result in fewer extreme health scenarios, fewer emergency room visits, and over time, will save us money and reduce the burden on our healthcare system.

Healthcare is a human right. Passing the Build Back Better Act is a step in the right direction.

RECOGNIZING FFA NATIONAL PRESIDENT COLE BAERLOCHER

(Mrs. RODGERS of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of Eastern Washington's finest young men, Cole Baerlocher.

Cole is a student at Washington State University, and he recently was elected to serve as the next national president of the Future Farmers of America.

For Cole, his family, and our entire community, this is a huge deal. Cole is from Colfax, the county seat of Whitman County, the top wheat-producing county in America.

Having him serve as the face of this organization is a tremendous honor. The FFA has more than 735,000 members; 37 candidates were considered for the honor of serving as president. Only one was selected to lead, and that person was Cole.

Cole, I know I speak for our entire community when I say congratulations on this incredible achievement. We could not be more proud. Go Cougs!

BUILD BACK BETTER CHILDCARE

(Mr. AUCHINCLOSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the inclusion of universal childcare and early education as part of the President's Build Back Better legislative agenda.

In Massachusetts, a family with two young children spends on average 28

percent of their income on childcare for 1 year. The Build Back Better Act will provide universal, high-quality, free preschool for every three- and four-year-old in America. It will ensure that a four-person Massachusetts family making up to \$170,000 pays no more than 7 percent of their income on high-quality childcare.

Investing in the health and education of our children is the best long-term investment our country can make. With our future in mind, we must provide access to as many families as possible, as soon as possible. This will require raising provider wages to a living wage immediately and ensuring that more families can benefit in year one when we pass the Build Back Better Act.

ADDRESSING AMERICA'S ENERGY CRISIS

(Mr. STAUBER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STAUBER. Madam Speaker, this time last year, America was energy independent. Now our Nation is facing a full-blown energy crisis, leaving the American people to ask, "What changed?"

Well, the answer is simple.

Unlike the Trump administration, the Biden administration is determined to make it more difficult for American energy producers to develop affordable and reliable energy here at home.

On his first day in office, Joe Biden canceled the Keystone pipeline. Soon after, he banned all new oil and gas leases on Federal lands. As a result, Americans are paying exponentially more at the pump with gas prices reaching a 7-year high. And this winter, the cost to heat our homes is expected to jump 54 percent.

As the top Republican on the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, I have been disappointed to see Joe Biden and Democrats in Congress double down on their failed agenda by pushing a \$5.5 trillion tax-and-spend package that will only increase our energy prices.

Instead of canceling commonsense energy projects, let's empower American energy workers to do what they do best. Instead of targeting American energy companies, let's make it easier for them to increase domestic oil and gas production.

If we do this, the next century can be an American century.

BUILD BACK BETTER AGENDA

(Mrs. LAWRENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LAWRENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Build Back Better agenda.

We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to make transformational change for women, transformational change for families, and communities